M

Sch. 12-37—250,000—11-5-48.

1948.

Dev (~~195~~) Department.

M/S. SERIES.

G.O. No. 5943

Dated 3.12.1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Ammonium Nitrate - Allocation for 1947-48 - Instructions - issued to the Director of Agriculture - Papers recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Memorandum No. 24119 A.III/48-16,Development,
dated 1-12-1948.

Subject: Agriculture - Grow More Food - Ammonium Nitrate - Insurance against loss or accident.

Ref: From the Joint Director of Agriculture, No.M.1.2141/47,dated 16-10-48.

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The Joint Director of Agriculture is requested to insist on all the manure firms to issue against loss or accident if further allotments of Ammonium Nitrate from the Government of India are accepted by this Government and supplied to them. It should be made a condition of allotment.

x x x x x

Secy. to Government.

To

The Joint Director of Agriculture.

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p.t.o.

24119 A.III/47.

(From the Director of Agriculture, No.M.1.2141/47, dated 16-10-1948).

To A.S.

SUMMARY.

The Government of India have allotted 1,600 tons of Ammonium Nitrate to this province for 1947-48 for cash and dry food crops. The allotment was made by India of their own accord and no indent was placed on them. The quota was accepted and on account of the explosive nature of the substance, it was given to manure mixing firms for preparation of mixtures. Having dumped the stuff on this Government, the Government of India in their letter dated 24-4-48 stated that this Government should bear the entire responsibility for the safe disposal of the fertilizer. They also suggested that the question of insurance and compensation for third party risks in cases of explosions should be considered. In paragraph 2 of the Memorandum on page 51 c.f., the Joint Director of Agriculture was asked to ascertain whether the manure mixing firms have insured against loss or accidents or third party risks in respect of the Ammonium Nitrate or other chemical fertilizers stored by them and such insurance is necessary as suggested by India. The replies furnished by the 8 manure mixing firms who are supplied with Ammonium Nitrate are pp.89-95 c.f. It will be seen therefrom that five out of eight firms have insured on the lines suggested by India. The Director of Agriculture has simply forwarded the replies furnished by the firms and he has not stated definitely whether insurance is necessary and if so how the manure firms can be compelled to take a policy. The legal aspect of the question is not clear.

One firm has stated that as they handle very small quantities of ammonium Nitrate there is no need for them to insure. Messrs. Shaw Wallace & Co. who have insured their stocks against fire, but not for third party risks, have said that the risk is not very great provided normal care is taken in the handling and storing of this material. Another Company have stated that all precautionary measures in stowing and handling have been adopted by them. As it is seen that while five out of the eight firms have taken steps to issue against fire and the other three have taken suitable precautions, there is perhaps not need to issue general orders compelling all the firms to insure themselves. The responsibility may be left to them, as if there is any third party risk or fire, they will have to face the consequences. The Director of Agriculture has already informed them of the hazards in transporting and stocking ammonium nitrate. This is not stocked in the Government depots. It is therefore for consideration whether there is any need for Government to take action by way of compelling the firms to take insurance policies. Public (Fire Service) and Home may see for remarks.

We may insist on insurance if further allotments of

Ammonium Nitrate are accepted by this Government (which is unlikely) and they are given to firms for manure mixtures

Sd. x x 28/10/48 Sd. x x 29/10/48.

Home.

U.O.No.24199-A.III/48-14,
dated 29-10-48.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

(File last seen in this department at page 9 ante)

The notes of Development at pages 11-13 above may be perused.

In consultation with the Inspector of Explosives, South Circle, Madras, it has already been decided that it is neither feasible nor necessary to control the storage, transport etc., of Nitrates including Ammonium Nitrate under the provisions of the Explosives Act. The Education and Public Health department are, however, taking action to control the storage of Ammonium Nitrate under the provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act, Madras City Municipal Act and Madras Local Boards Act.

May be returned to Development U.D.

Sd. x x 5/11/48

Deve.

Home U.O.No. 92677 G/48-1,
dated 5-11-48.

A.III
dt.6-11-48.

Public (Fire Service) may also see.

Sd. x x 6/11/48.

Pub.(F.S.)

Dev.U.O.No.24119.A.III/48-15,
dated 6-11-48.

PUBLIC (FIRE SERVICE) DEPT.

(This department last saw the case on page 10 ante).

The Development and Home departments' notes from page 11 ante may be perused and the case returned to Development.

Sd. x x x 13/11/48

Dev.

Pub(F.S.) U.O.No.3147/48-1,
dated 15-11-48.

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p.t.o.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

To A.S.

Home and Public (F.S.) notes on page 13 ante.

With reference to orders at 'N' on pages 12-13 above, it is submitted that the Imperial Chemical Industries have reported in another connection that the Government of India have allotted 2,200 tons of Ammonium Nitrate to United Plants Association of South India (U.P.A.S.I.) for 48-49 and that 3,000 tons more would be available for ryots crops and enquired whether this Government would take up that quantity either for distribution through Agricultural Depots or for supply to manure firms. The Joint Director of Agriculture's remarks called for in this connection are awaited. The decision at 'N' on pages 12-13 above may however be communicated to the Joint Director of Agriculture for taking necessary action.

Subject to orders a draft memorandum is submitted for approval. After issue the papers may be RECORDED as there is no further action in this file.

Sd. x x 25/11/48.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No. 5943, dated 3-12-1948.

Abstract.

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Ammonium Nitrate - Allocation for 1947-48 - Instructions issued to the Director of Agriculture - Papers recorded.

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ORDER:

R E C O R D E D.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

x x x x
Secy. to Government.

/True copy/

D. Jayaseshiah
6.6.54.
for Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

PSR. 1-8-53.

No
23/4/54.